

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 241348Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 646

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB PINT VE

SUBJ: AD WINS IRON MINERS ELECTIONS

REF: CARACAS 9624; CARACAS AIRGRAM 189

1. THE GOVERNING AD PARTY WON A NARROW VICTORY OVER FOUR OTHER PARTY SLATES IN THE OCTOBER 21 ELECTIONS IN THE NEWLY FORMED SINGLE IRON MINERS UNION (SUTRAHIERRO) IN BOLIVAR STATE. VOTING OCCURRED WIHOUT INDIDENT. AD EMERGED FROM THE BALLOTING WITH JUST OVER A THIRD OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST IN ONE OF THE YEARS'S MOST IMPORTANT UNION ELECTIONS. THE LEFTIST PARTIES, MIR AND MAS, PLACED SECOND AND THIRD, RESPECTIVELY, IN A STRONG SHOWING ON THE PART OF BOTH. THE COPEI SLATE AND A SLATE COMPOSED OF URD, MEP, FDP, AND PCV CANDIDATES PLACED FOURTH AND FIFTH. BALLOTING WAS AS FOLLOWS: AD, 1137; MIR, 819; MAS, 818; COPEI, 389; AND URD/.30/FDP/PCV, 187.

2. SINCE AD DID NOT WIN A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST, IT PLACED ONLY 3 REPRESENTATIVES ON SUTRAHIERRO'S 9-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THESE, HOWEVER, INCLUDE THE TWO PRINCIPAL POSITIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL AND ORGANIZATION SECRETARY. MIR AND MAS EACH WON TWO PLACES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH THE OTHER TWO POSITIONS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE OTHER SLATES. IN SIMULTANEOUS BALLOTING FOR 5 DISTRICT UNION COUNCILS MIR AND MAS WON OUTRIGHT MAJORITIES IN ONE COUNCIL EACH.

3. THE SUTRAHIERRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE COMPOSED AS  
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FOLLOWS: SECRETARY GENERAL, JOSE REYNALDO AYALA (AD); ORGANIZATION

SECRETARY, CARLOS VIDAL (AD); FINANCE SECRETARY, CLEMENTE FRANCO (AD)  
;  
LABOR AND CLAIMS SECRETARY, AGUSTIN RIVERO (MIR); INFORMATION  
SECRETARY, JOSE FRANCISCO MICHELLI (MIR); EVENTS AND RELATIONS  
SECRETARY, ANIBAL MUJICA (MAS); SOCIAL SECURITY SECRETARY, LUIS E.  
RIZO (MAS); CULTURE AND SPORTS SECRETARY, JOSE MARQUEZ (COPEI);  
AND TECHNICAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY, SILECIO ALFONZO (URD).

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AD'S VICTORY WAS EXPECTED, MAS'S STRONG  
SHOWING CAME AS A RESULT OF THE HEAVY EFFORT PUT FORTH BY THE PARTY  
OVER THE PAST YEAR AIMED AT GAINING A FOOTHOLD AMONG THE WORKERS OF  
THE GUAYANA IRON MINING REGION (CARACAS 9624, CARACAS A-189).  
OBVIOUSLY MIR ORGANIZERS HAVE ALSO BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE REGION.  
BOTH MAS AND MIR CAN BE CONSIDERABLY ENCOURAGED BY THE ELECTION  
RESULTS. AD, ON THE OTHER HAND, MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE IRON  
MINERS HAVE SENT THEM A MESSAGE. COPEI'S POOR SHOWING REFLECTS  
THAT PARTY'S DECLINE AMONG THE WORKERS OF BOLIVAR STATE. IN SPITE  
OF AD'S NARROW VICTORY, THE GOV AND THE CTV NATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
HAVE NEVERTHELESS ACHIEVED ONE OF THEIR MAJOR GOALS AFFECTING LABOR  
RELATIONS IN VENEZUELA -- THE CREATION OF A SINGLE UNION AMONG THE  
WORKERS OF THE GUAYANA IRON MINING REGION AIMED AT ALLEVIATING THE  
PROBLEM OF WILDCAT STRIKES LIKE THOSE OF JANUARY AND MAY THIS YEAR.  
SHLAUDEMAN

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## Message Attributes

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